CLAIMS:

1-39. (cancelled)

40. (new)   An application distribution system that distributes applications to user terminals connectible to the application distribution system via at least one public network, comprising:

provider table configured to store identifications of applications available for download by users of the user terminals and identifications of application providers who provide the applications;

usage table configured to record usages of the applications by the users;

fee table configured to record fees collected from the users who each pay a fixed amount of fee periodically; and

calculator configured to calculate allocations of the fees collected from the users among the application providers according to at least one of the usages of the applications by the users recorded in the usage table.

41. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, wherein the calculator first determines usages of an application and then determines an allocation of the fees for the application.

42. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, wherein the calculator first determines usages of applications by a user and then determines allocations of the fee among the applications.

43. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, wherein one of the usages of an application is a number of downloads of the application.

44. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, wherein one of the usages of an application is time lengths during which the application is executed.

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45. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 44, wherein the application distribution system receives notices from a user terminal when the terminal starts to execute an application and ends the execution of the application.

46. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, wherein one of the usages of an application is a number of times the application is activated on user terminals.

47. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, wherein one of the usages of an application is a rating made by users for the application, and the system further comprise a rating control configured to count the ratings made by the users.

48. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 47, wherein the rating control sets a limitation to a number of ratings one user can make during a time period.

49. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 48, wherein the rating control is responsive to a request from a user to create a list of applications for which the user can rate.

50. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 49, wherein in response to the request from the user, the rating control makes a list of applications which were downloaded by the user for a period of time.

51. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 49, wherein in response to the request from the user, the rating control makes a list of applications which were activated by the user for a period of time.

52. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 49, wherein in response to the request from the user, the rating control makes a list of applications which were rated by the user for a period of time.

53. (new) An application distribution system according to claim 47, wherein the rating control counts a rating by a user only if the rating is made for any one of (i) an application which was downloaded by the user for a period of time, (ii) an application which was activated by the user for the period of time and (iii) an application which was rated by the user for the period of time.

54. (new) An application distribution system according to claim 47, wherein the rating control generates a list of applications from which a user may select an application for rating and when the user selects an application from the list for rating, judges whether the user is eligible to select the application for rating.

55. (new) An application distribution system according to claim 40, wherein the calculator calculates allocations of the fees among the application providers, based on at least two usages selected from a group consisting of (i) a number of downloads of the applications by the uses, (ii) a number of times the applications were activated by the users and (iii) time lengths the applications were executed by the users.

56. (new) An application distribution system according to claim 40, further comprising an application locator responsive to a request from a user to locate an application and send the user information comprising at least a title and a description of the requested application.

57. (new) An application distribution system according to 56, further comprising a message transmitter configured to send the user information on a location of the requested application.

58. (new) An application distribution system according to claim 57, further comprising a graphic interface generator configured to present a graphic interface which allows the user to request the application.

59. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, further comprising payment control which allows payment of an allocation of the fees to a corresponding application provider only if the allocation exceeds a certain amount.

60. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 59, wherein the payment control sums allocations for an application provider over a time.

61. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, wherein the fee table records a fee collected from each user.

62. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, wherein the fee tale records total fees collected from each user.

63. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, wherein the fee is equal for all the users.

64. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, wherein the fee is equal for uses in a group.

65. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, further comprising a download control which prohibits a user from downloading an application if a number of times the user has downloaded the application over a certain period of time exceeds a certain number.

66. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, further comprising an execution time control which prohibits a user from at least one of (i) downloading an application and (iii) activating the application on the user's user terminal if total time lengths the user executed the application exceed a certain time length.

67. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, further comprising an activation control which prohibits a user from at least one of (i) downloading an application and (ii) activating the application on the user's user

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terminal if total numbers the user activating the application exceed a certain number.

68. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 47, wherein the application comprises an interface program which allows a user to rate the application.

69. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 68, wherein the rating control accepts a rating from a user only when the rating is for any one of (i) an application which was downloaded by the user for a period of time, (ii) an application which was activated by the user for the period of time and (iii) an application which was rated by the user for the period of time.

70. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, further comprising:

        a server program memory area that stores a plurality of server programs which communicate with applications downloaded on the user terminals;

        a common database area to which the server programs have access; and

        a restriction control which defines for each of the server programs table areas which a respective server program cannot access.

71. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, further comprising:

        a server program memory area that stores a plurality of server programs which communicate with applications downloaded on the user terminals;

        a common database area to which the server programs have access; and

        a permission control which define for each of the server programs table areas which a respective server program can access.

72. (new)   An application distribution system according to claim 40, further comprising:

a user table which stores user information;

a server program memory area that stores a plurality of server programs which communicate with applications downloaded on the user terminals; and

a shared process interface which can access the user information stored in the user table, wherein the server programs access the user information in the user table via the shared process interface.

73. (new)   An application distribution method of distributing applications to user terminals connectible to the application distribution system via at least one public network, the method comprising:

storing identifications of applications available for download by users of the user terminals and identifications of application providers who provide the applications;

recording usages of the applications by the users;

recording fees collected from the users who each pay a fixed amount of fee periodically; and

calculating allocations of the fees collected from the users among the application providers according to at least one of the usages of the applications by the users recorded in the usage table.

74. (new)   An application distribution method according to claim 73, wherein calculating allocations of the fees comprising first determining usages of an application and then determining an allocation of the fees for the application.

75. (new)   An application distribution method according to claim 73, wherein calculating allocations of the fees comprising first determining usages of applications by a user and then determining allocations of the fee among the applications.

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